Hal Verb
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8-21-95

Harold Weisberg
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Dear Hal:

A few days ago I did my last TV (live) show on the Cable network (it was the 14th program + the final in the series). I told the viewers that I've decided to renew the series beginning some time in 1996 but I couldn't say exactly when this would be.

For my guests on my last show I invited Gary Aguilar and Bill O'Neil both of whom you know through correspondence. Both Gary and I mentioned your book, "Never Again" + I believe the viewers were impressed with what we had to say (certainly the camera men, who discussed the show with me, were).

On the July TV show I did a review of your book (and I also discussed Mailer's, Newman's + Cockburn's). I sent a very long 8-page article to the "Fourth Decade" on Cockburn + since I've heard nothing from them I assume it will appear in their next show.

Gary mentioned on my August program that David Wrone will be a guest speaker at the Cepa event in October

1995 in Washington, D.C. I haven't seen him since about 1991 when I first met him at the Dallas convention. It'll be a real pleasure to renew our friendship. He is one of the best and sharpest critics I know.

Perhaps — and if time allows — I can get him to come and visit you when I get to Washington. If you will recall I've set aside the dates of Wed. Oct. 18 + Thursday, Oct. 19 for a visit to your place. I do hope that David can make it for at least one of those days.

You'll note the enclosures and I will discuss those a bit later but before I do there are a couple of questions or points I want to raise.

First, I did take your suggestion up (on writing "Publisher's Weekly" and ask why they hadn't done a review of your book (or recent books). I sent the letter to the editor on August 3rd and as of this date have received no reply.

Gary Aguilar told me that around September he'll be moving from Hillsborough to Marin (which is closer to S.F.). Since he has an office in S.F. by moving he'll be able to get to his home sooner. He told me that where he presently lives they feel isolated and the danger is that they would become considered "too stuffy". Gary said he didn't want to have his children become "spoiled brats"! I really like and admire Gary — he's late to the case & considering his political back-

ground (he com from a real conservative Goldwater family) he has come a long way. No one knows and can present the medical evidence better than he can. What I saw him do to Artwohl at a conference was first rate!

Bill O'Neil (who has written to you about Quiroga + Bill's belief that it was Quiroga who picked up the FPCC pamphlets in New Orleans) has asked me to ask you about a comment you made (to me) on Newman not having recognized Martello's "slip". Bill wondered if the "slip" you referred to could relate to a report Martello filled out about Oswald wherein the phrase "all interested parties being notified" (on Oswald's arrest). It is Bill's belief that if this indeed, is what you're referring to it shows that Martello "slipped" up indicating he knew of Oswald prior to the arrest. I believe Martello is discussed in Newman's book on pg 329.

The S.F. Chronicle on August 11th reported on a David Letterman show (of Aug. 9th) wherein Letterman asked Dan Rather about "changes" being made by CBS. Letterman was wondering why Andy Rooney, described as "quite loved in his criticism of network management over the years", was able to get away with this "criticism".

Here is Rather's reply + I think it is classic Rather: "He's like you are. He's bullet proof. He can say those things and nothing happens to him.

I still have kids in college, I still have car payments. I still have a house note to make."

That's the end of the Rather quote but it points out what a shining example of journalistic integrity Rather has been all along. Why couldn't he have said this around the time he was reporting on the assassination & doing all those "CBS Specials"? At least we'd be able to point to his "journalistic responsibility" and "credibility".

Of course he did say this after more than 30 years. And one more thing about this "revelation" (confession?), the writer on this interview noted that Rather earns $3.5 million a year.

As W.C. Fields ~~once~~ once noted a million dollars can cover a lot of sins during a year (and he said it way back when a million meant you were in a super-charged financial class).

Debra Crouch may call you. I wrote an article for their next issue on the "top secret" Jan. 1964 transcript. I figured out the redactions & why they were done. They want to highlight my article with pictures, etc. and they seemed very excited about it.

I hope your Mailer book is continuing. Among the many enclosures is a "History Book Club Review" on Mailer's book. If I'm not mistaken it is lifted from the "Book of the Month Club" review (a copy

of which I sent you in a previous letter).

Now to refer to the enclosures:

The most important of these (in my opinion) are: (a) the 9 page excerpt from Ray Marcus' latest "Addendum B" to his first addendum. The excerpts refer to Posner & I thought you'd be interested in seeing what he's written. Ray made only 125 copies of his new "Addendum B".

(b) The Don Olsen & Turner 1971 "photo evidence" report in the "Journal of Forensic Sciences". Gary Aguilar sent me a copy which I knew of but did not know what they had written. It virtually confirms the COPA paper I delivered last year proving the final shot did not miss but struck JFK (& not from behind); (C) The "New Republic" book review on Mailer. At certain points he almost seems to be saying that Mailer is concocting a fairy tale but at other times seems in agreement with him; (D) Randy Robertson's article on "The Late Arriving Fragment" (re page 25 of the "Fourth Decade" excerpts). Robertson takes a very good position on the "double head shot" evidence; (E) "A Distant Echo" (by M. Maglio) on the Acoustics evidence. See page 21 in the excerpt included from the British publication, "Dallas '63". It is very well documented & very scientifically based. A fine work, indeed.

All the other items enclosed I suggest you read after you've read the ones I've noted above.

I'll be in touch soon again.

Best,
Hal Verb